

development across the country and I am so pleased that CELCP is able to make such a valuable contribution to the protection of coastal and estuarine lands, which are considered important for their ecological, conservation, recreational, historical and aesthetic value.

This program provides badly needed federal funds for the purchase and protection of sensitive coastal ecosystems with the goal of better ensuring the ecological and economic health of our coastal communities—this is critical in light of the fact that 60 percent of Americans will live along the coast by 2010.

I have been privileged to work with Representative Saxton and applaud his dedication to formally authorizing this program that Congress has funded since 2003. By establishing a plan for the preservation of our coastal areas, authorizing CELCP will build on the successful Coastal Zone Management Act, and it will continue to encourage partnership programs among federal government, state agencies, local governments, private landowners and non-profits.

CELCP has certainly provided the backbone for strong partnerships in Delaware, through the Nature Conservancy, and DNREC, and NOAA—and I look forward to the continued success of the program.

As we all know too well, protecting open space is particularly important in Delaware, where rapid development is underway. Delaware's CELCP funding totals around \$10 million; most recently it has helped ensure that Blackbird Creek, with wetlands, forest, and important species, remains ecologically valuable today and in the future.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in supporting H.R. 1907.

HONORABLE STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES COLLEGE FIRE PREVENTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, as a cosponsor of this legislation, I would like to thank my colleagues and the Education and Labor Committee for allowing this legislation to be considered today. Additionally, I would like to recognize Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones, who during her five terms in Congress, worked to advance fire safety, particularly on college campuses.

Mr. Speaker, far too many of our nation's young people have been lost to senseless fire tragedies at places where they are supposed to be encouraged to grow and kept safe—their own college campuses. According to the Center for Campus Fire Safety, 94 people have been killed in student housing fires since January of 2000. Sadly, many of these deaths may have been preventable with the help of proper fire safety technology.

This legislation will establish a demonstration incentive program within the Department of Education to promote the installation of fire sprinkler systems, or other fire suppression or prevention technologies. This program is vital to helping ensure that our students are provided the most technologically advanced fire

safety equipment. I am confident that this will not only help make colleges safer across the country, but will also save lives.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bipartisan and important piece of legislation.

TRAIL OF TEARS DOCUMENTATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I come here in support of H.R. 5335, which would amend the National Trails System Act to provide for the inclusion of new trail segments, land components, and campgrounds associated with the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. First, I would like to thank my colleague from Tennessee, Congressman WAMP, for sponsoring this important legislation. As an Oklahoman, this legislation is significant to my district, where many of my constituents are descendants of those who survived the Trail of Tears. However, as the only Native American currently serving in Congress this bill is also personally important to me, as my ancestors were forcibly relocated from Mississippi to Oklahoma through the Trail of Tears, though not one of the routes originally documented in the original Historic Trail. Of the dozens of tribes that call Oklahoma home today, very few are originally from the area. Virtually all of the tribes in Oklahoma experienced the tragedy of the forced relocation process.

Mr. Chairman, when the Trail of Tears Historic Trail was created by Congress in 1987, it designated two main routes taken by the Cherokee during the removal process. Historically, many routes used during removal were not well documented at the time and were not included in the designation. Since that time, researchers have identified other routes taken by Native Americans during the relocation process. A feasibility study, ordered by Congress and released in September 2007, did find additional trail segments. This bill, pursuant to the feasibility study, adds additional land components, round up routes and water routes to the Trail of Tears Historic Trail. I am happy to be an original co-sponsor of this legislation.

Not only will these additional designations help to raise awareness about this tragic chapter of our Nation's history, but will provide many across Indian country with better access to their past and collective history. The Trail of Tears crystallized the idea of race as a determining factor in American public policy and documents the first federally legislated forced removal of Native people from traditional homelands. The physical route of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail and historic sites associated with the Trail and removal reflect the lifestyles of Native people at the time of removal, the harshness of the journey West and their remarkable adaptation to new surroundings. Thousands of Native Americans in Oklahoma and elsewhere will be able to visit these sites and identify with their ancestors' desperate journey westward.

Madam Speaker, though this bill calls awareness to one of the most tragic events in

our Nation's history, it also is ultimately a story of survival. The tribes that were relocated have once again established themselves and remain strong. This achievement only helps exemplify the astonishing fortitude of American Indians.

Again, I thank Congressman WAMP for introducing this crucial legislation. As the only Native American currently serving in Congress, I am proud to support the intention of this bill and I urge Members to vote for its passage.

COMMENDING THE HONOR FLIGHT NETWORK

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1287.

Several of my colleagues and I have had the honor in recent years of joining former Senator Bob Dole to greet groups of World War II veterans arriving at the World War II Memorial for the first time through a grassroots, nonprofit organization called Honor Flight.

I introduced House Resolution 1287 earlier this year to express our country's appreciation to the Honor Flight Network, its founders Earl Morse of Ohio and Jeff Miller of North Carolina, its volunteers and its donors across the country who make this moving experience possible for our Nation's World War II veterans. By introducing this resolution, I also seek to call attention to this worthy organization in the hope that more of my colleagues as well as those watching and reading at home will support Honor Flight in their communities.

Many World War II veterans are in their 80s and 90s and are unable, physically or financially, to visit our Nation's capital and see the World War II Memorial, which is a beautiful tribute to their service, sacrifice and victory over 60 years ago. We are losing these veterans at a rate of 900 each day. Working against time to say "thank you," Honor Flight uses chartered or commercial flights to enable World War II veterans to see the Memorial created in their honor.

Today, we commend the Honor Flight Network, its volunteers and donors now operating in over 30 States who honor World War II veterans by making it possible for them to experience our Nation's gratitude for their service.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2008

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I have received authorization in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 for two projects in California's 44th Congressional District which are described as follows:

Requesting Member: Congressman KEN CALVERT.

Bill Number: S. 3001.

Account: Standards Development—Research, Development, Test & Evaluation, NAVY.